

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0918

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the St. Lucie Inlet, FL project in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Army Corps of Engineers – Jacksonville District, located at 701 San Marco Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

The funding would be used for to provide necessary dredging of the St. Lucie Inlet. The St. Lucie Inlet serves a vital role in Martin County's economy, ecosystems, and lifestyle of its residents. Commercial, sport, and recreational fishing define life in the community and each relies on safe and dependable use of the inlet. St. Lucie Inlet is one of the widest in Florida, nearly a half mile.

Dredging is typically conducted every two to four years to control shoaling in the three major reaches of the channel. Severe storms and adverse weather conditions can expedite the need for dredging, however, as material from beach and ocean areas settles in the mouth of the inlet and the inner channel, forming obstructive shoals. This results in an unreliable channel for boat traffic, negatively impacting safe navigation.

Of equal consequence is the health of the Indian River Lagoon, which depends on the natural flushing action provided by the healthy, open Inlet to remove discharge from Lake Okeechobee.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Brian Mast
Member of Congress